

**Downtown/Capitol Central Corridor LRT
Brainstorming Exercise Responses
July 25, 2006**

At their first meeting, Downtown/Capitol task force members were asked to complete a short brainstorming exercise about the Downtown/Capitol portion of the LRT corridor and LRT planning. Upon completing the survey, each of the task force members named their most important issues from the fourth question. After listing the issues, each member received three “votes” to identify the group’s top concerns regarding the planning and development process.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▪ Connection between transit modes (7) | ▪ Balance (1) |
| ▪ Promote growth, sustainability (5) | ▪ Impact on seniors, youth (1) |
| ▪ Sustainable housing – affordability, diversity (economic, lifestyle) (5) | ▪ Terminus – where? (1) |
| ▪ Relationship to commercial uses, business impact (4) | ▪ Link to other development, river (1) |
| ▪ Impact on street character, activity (4) | ▪ Quality of public space |
| ▪ Connections to unserved areas downtown-wide, city-wide (2) | ▪ Walkability impact |
| ▪ Connection to cultural, artistic roots (1) | ▪ System connections - timing, <u>service</u> |
| ▪ Impacts on existing infrastructure (1) | ▪ Housing density |
| ▪ Parking (1) | ▪ Number of stops |
| ▪ Safety, security (1) | ▪ Impact on downtown livability, neighborhood character |
| ▪ Public and private mix (1) | ▪ Natural environment impact – air, noise |
| | ▪ Impact on homelessness at stations |

The full results of the exercise are below.

1. What three words/phrases describe the LRT corridor from Rice Street to Union Depot today?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • underutilized/empty/not lively (3) | • parking spots |
| • underdeveloped (2) | • central business district |
| • residence/cultural displacement | • drab |
| • convenience | • boring |
| • construction | • unsafe |
| • underserved | • essential to a unified twin cities transit system |
| • not attractive | • essential to economic growth – tourism, events (must serve Xcel, Science Museum, etc |
| • not pedestrian friendly | • core element for a hub system or dual hub system |
| • historic (esp. 4 th St) | |
| • disconnected | |
| • re-emerging | |
| • convenient/easy to use | |
| • safe | |
| • seamless system | |

2. What three words/phrases describe how you would like the corridor and the neighborhoods adjacent to it to look in 20-25 years?

- | | |
|--|--|
| • vibrant commercial/residential hub (3) | • transit accessible/connections with bus system (3) |
| • walking friendly/full of pedestrians (3) | |

- cultural and multi-generational growth, inclusiveness business and residences
- business – small business enhancement
- children – people off and on
- balanced development
- community-based (neighborhoods retained)
- one flowing community
- preservation of historical values
- modern and efficient urban landscape
- beautiful
- connected to cultural roots
- serving the community and interested parties
- stimulate economic growth
- lively
- entertainment/culture, and retail friendly
- support of businesses that are disrupted
- safe
- desirable
- highly developed and prosperous
- economically and ethnically diverse

3. Name the three major issues you feel need to be addressed regarding construction of the LRT line (within the rail bed).

- how many downtown stations/downtown routing and terminal point (5)
- safety (4)
- business accessibility/blocking access to businesses and buildings/business interruption during long construction period (3)
- high-level integration with other transit modes, including buses and bicycles/creation of a seamless transit system (3)
- convenience, ease of use (2)
- speed and efficiency of trains within downtown/along corridor (2)
- interference with existing infrastructure/utilities
- parking
- closed small businesses
- public art
- accessibility
- traffic friendly
- connecting to other potential/planned transport projects (e.g. Post Office)
- efficient funding
- connector systems

4. Name the three major issues you feel need to be addressed regarding future land use and development along the corridor and in the neighborhoods adjacent to it.

- safety/security/crime (3)
- balanced, mix of development types (2)
- fit with current Saint Paul urban design
- interference/conflict with existing infrastructure and means to resolve unintended consequences
- sustainability of development
- multi-economical housing/sustainable housing
- conforming to neighborhoods
- promote growth and sustainability
- street access
- street friendly
- connection to cultural as well as office
- attracting increases housing, shops, businesses
- enhanced public space and green space
- integration with other transit modes and walkability
- connection to cultural and artistic roots
- promote vibrant commercial/residential community
- connectivity to other points in the cities
- consider all aspects such as “green space,” public vs. private development and use
- displacement of current affordable commercial and residential properties
- increased transit user parking in the neighborhood where there is already a shortage of on-street parking
- economic and ethnic diversity

- return to core city as a place to live, work, shop and play (combating urban sprawl)
- environmental cleanup – clean air, parks, green spaces, visual appeal

5. List up to three things you hope this task force will accomplish.

- number and locations of stations/routes and stops agreement/ find the BEST route between Rice St. and Union Depot, and links into Union Depot as a multi modal hub (3)
- guiding the City's position on expectations from development of LRT
- exploration of the appropriateness of currently proposed route in light of Science Museum, Xcel Energy Center, etc.
- clarity in the usage and encouragement
- how business small and large can benefit
- community consideration especially children and seniors
- balance competing priorities
- generate accessible and convenient transit
- legacy of growth and sustainability
- political base to defend against cut corners
- elegant, high value, culturally diverse urban core
- develop vision to establish Saint Paul as vibrant city
- ensure safe, convenient light rail is built
- balance needs and interests of all parties, but "compromise" so funding can be obtained and project gets done
- ensure a way to fund it so that LRT gets built
- create a vision for DT LROD
- create a unified front with other task force
- begin education of DT businesses and residences re: LRT
- cohesive streetscape principles agreement
- identify voice of customer and address core needs for each group
- study similar cities for best practices, understanding the difference between downtown and University Ave and applying those findings to the route